

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5181
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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AMEMBASSY ROME
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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 01815

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR,PINT, GW, FR
SUBJECT: GERMAN (SPD) - FRENCH (PS) COMMISSION MEETINGS

BEGIN SUMMARY. TWO OF THE JOINT COMMISSIONS SET UP BY
THE GERMAN SPD AND THE FRENCH PS MET IN DECEMBER AND
JANUARY. THE COMMISSION ON EUROPEAN POLICY MET AT THE
BEGINNING OF DECEMBER IN PARIS AND THE COMMISSION ON
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SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES MET ON JANUARY 25 IN BONN.
THE ATMOSPHERE AT BOTH MEETINGS, ACCORDING TO ONE
GERMAN PARTICIPANT, WAS EXCELLENT, AND THE GERMANS ARE
VERY PLEASED WITH THE PROGRESS MADE. THE COMMISSION
ON DEVELOPMENT AID POLICIES WILL MEET AT THE END OF
APRIL, PROBABLY IN BONN. THESE MEETINGS ARE NOT ONLY INCLUDED UNDER
EACH COMMISSION BUT THEY ARE ALSO USED FOR THE EXCHANGE

OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN BOTH COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SPD DELEGATION TO THE DECEMBER 3 GERMAN-FRENCH COMMISSION MEETING IN PARIS WAS LED BY STATE-MINISTER WISCHNEWSKI AND THE FRENCH DELEGATION BY GERARD JAQUAT. THE GERMANS WERE VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE AT BOTH THE PARIS AND BONN MEETINGS. AT THE PARIS MEETING THE PS DELEGATION BRIEFED THE GERMANS ON THE PRESENT STATE OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE PS AND PC ON THE QUESTION OF EUROPEAN POLICY. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THE FRENCH SOCIALISTS BASICALLY SUPPORT EUROPEAN INTEGRATION BUT A MINORITY OF ABOUT TWENTY PERCENT IN THE PARTY ARE MORE IDEOLOGICAL AND OPPOSE THE PRESENT COURSE OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION.

2. ACCORDING TO THE PS REPRESENTATIVES AT THE PARIS MEETING, THE FRENCH COMMUNISTS WANT TO BROADEN THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BUT OPPOSE DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE PARLIAMENT. THEIR OBJECTIONS ARE BOTH NATIONALISTIC AND IDEOLOGICAL. THE PC OFFICIALS CLAIM THEY WANT TO MAKE THE EC MORE DEMOCRATIC AND PLURALISTIC BUT THAT THEY OPPOSE INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES SUCH AS THOSE PROPOSED IN THE TINDEMANN REPORT.

3. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, FRENCH POLICY TOWARDS EUROPEAN INTEGRATION UNDER A PS-PC GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE VERY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE PRESENT FRENCH
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GOVERNMENT. THE COMMUNISTS WOULD PLAY THE ROLE THE GUALLIST?PLAY NOW IN PREVENTING THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT FROM BEING MORE ACCOMMODATING TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION MOVEMENT.

4. THE JANUARY 25 MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES WAS CONFINED TO A DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC ISSUES AND PROBLEMS. THE GERMAN DELEGATION INCLUDED: EHMKE, DOHNANYI, PORZNER, WOLFGANG ROTH AND MATTHIESEN, AND THE FRENCH DELEGATION INCLUDED: BOULLOCHE, JACQUES DELORS, JEAN-PIERRE CHEVENEMENT, BACHY AND FUCHS. SOCIAL MINISTER EHRENBURG WAS SUPPOSED TO LEAD THE GERMAN DELEGATION BUT HE WAS TOO BUSY WITH THE PENSION FUND CRISIS TO PARTICIPATE.

5. AMONG THE SPECIFIC SUBJECTS DISCUSSED AT THE BONN MEETING WERE: INDUSTRIAL CO-DETERMINATION (MITBESTIMMUNG), ECONOMIC PLANNING, UNEMPLOYMENT AND NATIONALIZATION. THE FRENCH PARTICIPANTS WERE PARTICULARLY

INTERESTED IN THE MECHANICS AND TECHNIQUES USED BY THE
GERMAN GOVERNMENT TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THESE ISSUES.

6. ALTHOUGH THE GERMAN DELEGATION INCLUDED SOME
PERMANENT SPD LEFTISTS (E.G., EHMKE, ROTH, MATTHIESEN),
THEY WERE RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT OF NATIONAL-

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IZATION. IN FACT, WOLFGANG ROTH, FORMER NATIONAL JUSO
CHAIRMAN, TRIED TO EXPLAIN TO THE FRENCH DELEGATES THAT
EVEN MENTION OF THE WORD NATIONALIZATION MEANT

POLITICAL SUICIDE IN THE FRG. HOWEVER, THE FRENCH
INSISTED ON DISCUSSING THE SUBJECT. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY
CLAIMED THAT INDUSTRIES SUCH AS THE ARMAMENT INDUSTRY
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IN FRANCE, WHICH HOLD A MONOPOLY POSITION AND SELL
THEIR TOTAL OUTPUT TO THE GOVERNMENT OR EXPORT
IT ONLY WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE GOVERNMENT, SHOULD
NOT BE PRIVATELY OWNED.

7. THE PS DELEGATES TOLD THE GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS
THAT RECENT PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS TAKEN AMONG FRENCH
INDUSTRIALISTS SHOWED THAT THE PS WAS SURPRISINGLY
ACCEPTABLE TO THIS INTEREST GROUP. HOWEVER, TWO AREAS WHERE
FRENCH INDUSTRIALISTS LACKED CONFIDENCE IN A PS GOVERN-
MENT WERE: MAINTAINING THE STABILITY OF THE FRENCH
FRANC AND MAINTAINING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF FRENCH
EXPORTS.

8. OUR SOURCE TELLS US THAT THE GERMANS ARE VERY
PLEASED WITH THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE COMMISSION
MEETINGS. THE FRENCH PROVED TO BE FRIENDLIER THAN THE
GERMANS EXPECTED. THE TWO SIDES ARE PREPARED SERIOUSLY
AND OPENLY TO DISCUSS SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AS WELL AS
TO EXCHANGE POLITICAL EXPERIENCES. SHOULD THE PS COME
TO POWER IN FRANCE, THE GERMANS FEEL THAT THE TECHNICAL
DISCUSSIONS IN THE COMMISSIONS WILL HAVE HELPED THE
PS PREPARE FOR THE TASK OF GOVERNING. EMOTIONAL ISSUES
SUCH AS THE FRG BAN ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF RADICALS IN
THE CIVIL SERVICE HAVE NOT COME UP AT THESE MEETINGS.
THE GERMANS SAID THAT MITTERRAND HAS ASSURED
THEM THAT THE FRENCH COMMITTEE TO MONITOR CIVIL RIGHTS
IN THE FRG WILL REMAIN DORMANT.
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